

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The claims have been amended along the lines suggested by the examiner in the Response to Arguments section on page 4 of the last office action. The turns are now more accurately defined.

In addition new claims 14 and 15 have been inserted that describe details of the screwthread and recess shapes.

In US 6,196,842 of Jorneus does not have three 360° turns at its free end as clearly now defined in claim 1. Neither does this reference have the shallow recesses of new claim 14 nor three of the recesses as defined in new claim 15. Thus main claim 12 is clearly allowable over this reference, and both claims 14 and 15 define inventions patentable in their own right. The §102 rejection on Jorneus is clearly overcome and, since there is no suggestion to change the screwthreads of this reference from the illustrated configuration, a §103 rejection is similarly overcome.

Thus all the claims are allowable over the art. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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Enclosure:

None.